THIRTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS

OF THE

POOLE RURAL DISTRICT,

COMPRISING THE PARISHES OF

CANFORD MAGNA, KINSON, LYTCHETT MINSTER,

AND LYTCHETT MATRAVERS,

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1921.

WILLIAM THOMAS GARDNER ROBINSON,

M.D., &c. (Glasgow), D.P.H. (Cambridge),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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POOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS.

Abbott, Tom, J.P. (Chairman).
Clark, C. G. (Vice-Chairman).
Abbott, W. L.
Atkins, Regd.
Ballam, C.
Blaney, F. O.
Llewellin, W., J.P.
Sharp, Rev. A. M., M.A.
Cull, A.
White, A. H.

Meetings are held monthly on Mondays at 2-30 p.m.

OFFICIALS.

Clerk ... ... A. J. H. Pearce,
Rural District Council Offices, Poole.

Medical Officer of Health W. T. Gardner Robinson, M.D., D.P.H.,
163, High Street, Poole.

Surveyor of Highways R. T. S. Seymour,
Wimborne.

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor G. H. Seymour,
Longfleet Road, Poole.

To the Chairman and Members of the Poole Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Thirty-sixth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary condition of the above named District for the year ended 31st December, 1921.

In accordance with a recent circular of the Ministry of Health, the Report for 1921 will be an ordinary one, as last year's was a survey and detaile done.

Area.—This is often asked for; it is as follows:—

			Acres.
Canford Magna	...	...	7,855
Kinson	...	...	2,769
Lytchett Matravers	...	...	3,413
Lytchett Minster	...	...	3,325
			17,362

Population.—The census was taken on 19—20th June, 1921, and on that date the number of persons was 7,378—

Males	...	...	3,508
Females	...	...	3,870
			7,378

This is an increase of 1,073 in 10 years.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features.—These are varied, even in such a small area; Broadstone and the Lytchett Parishes being undulating with fine views over Poole Harbour. Purbeck Hills, &c., and other parts of the District, like Kinson, and Ensbury Park are flat.

The soil is of a gravelly nature, with outcrops of clay about Creekmoor and Lytchett Matravers.

Climate.—This is characterised by abundance of sunshine and during the year a minimum of rain, which caused much inconvenience owing to the drying up of many springs and wells. The shortage was most acutely felt in Lytchett Matravers.

The District has a favourable influence on Bronchitis, Asthma and Tuberculosis, and being situated in the midst of the sunniest belt in England, is singularly free from mists.

Chief Occupations.—Various occupations are carried on but none are specially injurious to health. Agriculture is chiefly carried on in Canford aad the Lytchetts, but near the Bournemouth boundary the inhabitants are mostly artisans and work at various trades in that town. At Broadstone the inhabitants are largely of the residential class, the district being a great golfing centre, and possessing also a fine bracing air with exquisite views over Dorset Lakeland and around.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—When obtained from the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co., as at Canford Village, Kinson, Wallis Down, and Ensbury Park, it is constant and in every way satisfactory. The Poole Corporation's works at Corfe Mullen supply Broadstone and Upton, this is also constant and of good quality, not so hard as it was in former years, being sterilised and softened before delivery.

Owing to the long dry hot summer the supply in the outgoing places became very precarious and in some parts of Lytchett Matravers failed altogether. This caused much inconvenience as the water had to be brought from long distances and stored. No complaints were received as to domestic scarcity, but cattle suffered severely. Several samples were taken, and one source was condemned as being unfit and discontinued.

Rivers and Streams.—The Stour is the only river of any size which runs through part of the District; there are several small streams which were dried up in the autumn. In normal seasons they are clear and mostly of local origin and fairly pure.

Drainage and Sewerage.—In November, 1921, the Ministry of Health sent an Inspector to hold an Enquiry as to Broadstone Sewerage and on his Report the scheme was sanctioned and the work commenced in December. The cesspool system will continue in use till complete connections are made with the new sewers, which is expected to be in about a year's time. Cesspools im Ensbury Park and Wallis Down are now becoming more numerous and will require consideration at an early date. The Sewerage of this growing and important District cannot long be delayed.

Scavenging.—This is carried out well at Broadstone; but in other parts very little is being done to make the filthy accumulations near back doors in a few places what they ought to be. Consequently, where we have housewives who will not improve their ways, there is more sickness and summer Diarrhœa owing to the large number of flies which breed abundantly in these parts.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The milk produced in the district is good, large quantities are sent away to neighbouring Factories, Bournemouth and other towns, also to London. Collectors' Vans for taking the milk to various centres are to be seen any day all over the district; these rapidly travelling motor vehicles go at a rapid pace and during a voyage of several miles where considerable oscillation obtains, this must have some influence on it, but no complaints are ever received.

Under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, which are administered by the County Council Officials, only one sample was taken during the year—"Self-Raising Flour." No adulteration was found.

Rateable Value.—£36,042 or about one seventh of the Poole Union, an increase of £1,270 in the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POOR RELIEF.

The number of unemployed in the District is about 75, the number in the receipt of out-relief 150, and from the District there are 8 inmates in Longfleet Gardens. Most of the young men leave their homes at an early date to seek employment in towns, or where there is "more life" in order to better themselves as they express it; hence we have many cottages occupied by labourers of a poor earning capacity, with its consequent increase of out of works in the winter months. The gradual closing of Holton Works has led to less overcrowding in the Lytchetts, and where the families have not moved altogether to some increase in unemployment there.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Of the ordinary Infectious Diseases, there were 24 cases notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	19
Diphtheria	3
Enteric Fever	1
Paratyphoid	1
	24

Scarlet Fever.—This disease was remarkable for its mildness and also for a small epidemic which broke out at the Cottage Homes, Broadstone, in July. Four cases were notified in the Girl's Home and all removed to Hospital. The source of the trouble was traced to a girl being admitted from Parkstone where several cases of "sore throat" were found; now our first case was sister to this newly admitted one—probably some other mild cases were in existence and not under medical care. but this part is outside the Rural Area. No further cases occurred and we attended to the sanitation thoroughly.

Another case of Scarlet Fever of interest was notified at Lytchett Minster in May and removed to Hospital where she stayed 28 days; this girl was notified on 13th November, 1920, and admitted to Hospital where she stayed 40 days; being a return case after being at home about 5 months.

The other cases were isolated ones about the District.

Diphtheria.—Three cases notified were all in one house at Ensbury Park. They were all mild ones; one of these was personally examined and found about his work. He was soon free from the infective germ.

Enteric Fever.—This solitary case was notified from Organford, a young married woman, who died before the notification was received March. Our inquiries proved she had been away and came home during the incubating stage.

Paratyphoid.—This case was a Lady at a Nursing Home at Broadstone, where she rapidly recovered and no source of infection could be traced.

Influenza and Mumps caused a number of children to be absent from the Elementary Schools in several parts of the District—the Schools were closed for varying periods in consequence.

Tuberculosis.—The number of notifications received of this Disease during 1921 was 25 or 1 more than the whole of the ordinary Infectious Diseases put together. Of this number 23 were classed as Tuberculosis of the Lungs and two of tbe Neck Glands.

The number of deaths registered as dying from Tubercolosis was 7, five from Lung affection and two from other tuberculosis Diseases. This number is an increase on the 1920 report but it is too soon yet to say how post war conditions will react on the population as regards their liability to tuberculosis. It should

also be remembered that the figures for any year cannot be taken as typical for such a small area as ours, as the element of chance is responsible for fluctuations year by year.

Birth Rate.—The total number of births for the year was :—

Males	86
Females	75
	161

This is a decrease of 5 on the 1920 total, which was an excessive one.

The Birth Rate was 22.2 per 1000 of the population; a slight falling of from last year but nearly equal to that for England and Wales which was 22.4.

Of the total births 9 were registered as illegtimate :—

Males	4
Females	5
	9

This is one less than last year.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths from all causes of Civilians only was 79, viz. :—

Males	34
Females	45
	79

This gives a Death Rate of 10.8 per 1000 an increase of 7 on last year, but is satisfactory when compared with the rate for England and Wales which was 12.1.

Infantile Death Rate.—This is estimated on per 1000 births and confined to infants under 1 year.

12 deaths occurred giving a rate of 74.5 as against 83 for England and Wales.

The chief causes of deaths throughout the District were :—

Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	8
Heart Disease	8
Bronchitis	8
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	7
Cerebral Hemorrhage	5

Cancer.—This terrible disease heads the list as usual, and we seem to be as far off as ever as to any preventive or curative measures.

Heart Disease.— This disease caused one more death than in 1920; but its incidence calls for no comment.

Sanitary Administration.—This consists of two officials, the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector; both attend the meetings of the Council and both make monthly reports.

Under this heading comes the question of Roads and Dust as affecting the health of the inhabitants who live on the roadsides.

From Mr. Seymour, our Surveyor, I have received the important information that the District Council has 83 miles of important District roads, all in very fair state of repair. The District roads of Talbot Village and Wallis Down, bordering on the County Borough of Bournemouth, are watered during the summer months, as the Charabanc and Motor Traffic is so very heavy and creates clouds of dust which ruin the cottagers, roadside gardens and the dust in the houses is terrible. Also, pedestrians are deprived of all enjoyment on their Sunday promenade and children are driven indoors. Now this adds to a lowering of vitality, headache, and weakening of eyesight; and arouses a strong and bitter feeling against the "the new users of the roads." This raises the old issue which caused much controversy in the eighteenth century, whether the traffic was to be constrained to suit the road, or the road constructed to accommodate the traffic. The latter will be the future alternative; but every precaution must be adopted so that these shortcomings do not affect the health and comfort of the people.

In addition to these, the Council have 10 miles of unmetalled roads under their jurisdiction, and there are also a few, and these not yet taken over, which are in such a state of repair as to be really injurious to health and dangerous to users on dark nights.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—Arrangements are made for both and also for analysis of water; free examinations of Tuberculosis matter are also given; Diphtheria swabs are provided and examinations made and reports sent to the certifying Medical Practitioner. This works well.

Early Notification of Births Acts.—105 Births were notified during the year—not such a good percentage as ought to be. Ignorance of the Acts and the fact that many births are

attended by relatives or neighbours without the assistance of either a medical practitioner or registered midwife, or even an unregistered one, accounts for many omissions. This information was obtained on personal inspections in several cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts and also to carry out the duties imposed by the Ministry of Health under Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes. Wallis Down would be a good centre for the latter and the beneficial influence of a good weekly "clinic" would be felt. At present mothers here are perhaps not as careful as they ought to be; it is also well known that the bad and careless mother would not perhaps go at first, but in such a small centre she would probably be encouraged to attend and thus help to lessen the rate of the Infant Mortality which is always high here. It would be useful, too, for helping the County Council Visitor in her work particularly at the Gipsy Camp.

The nursing arrangements throughout the District are now improved, the new midwife for the populous Kinson portion being quite a success. She would be a great help at the Welfare Clinic at Wallis Down.

As regards Ophthalmia Neonatorum—no case occurred during the year; neither had we any deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhœa.

HOUSING.

This subject is treated by Mr. Seymour in his Report annexed herewith.

It is impossible to generalise about the cottages in the District, the conditions depend on two varying factors,—(1) the care which the tenant takes of the property and (2) the amount of money which the landlord can and will spend upon it. In view of the very high cost of repairs and the expectation that this will shortly fall, has had a restraining influence on our recommendations; we have concentrated our attention more particularly on such important matters as dampness, defective drainage, provision of proper refuse receptacles and other conveniences and insist on these receiving proper and early attention.

Isolation Hospital.—This is the Borough of Poole Hospital at Alderney and its accommodation is ample.

The number of cases admitted was 19 during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	2
	19

For other than Infectious Diseases—the Hospitals of Poole and Bournemouth provide accommodation for any cases in the District.

For the near future our needs are :—

1. Completion of Broadstone Sewerage Scheme.
2. Cesspool Emptying and refuse collection at Wallis Down, Ensbury Park and around.
3. Repairing of existing cottages.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. GARDNER ROBINSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Poole Rural District.

SUMMARY.

AREA.—17362 acres.

POPULATION.—7378.

RATEABLE VALUE.—£36042.

BIRTH RATE.—22.2 per 1000.

DEATH RATE.—10.8 per 1000.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE.—74.5 per 1000 births.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Poole Borough.

To the Chairman and Members of the Poole Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1921.

Nuisances.—The number of nuisances reported during the year have been few and quickly remedied when ordered. They have chiefly consisted of choked drains, animals badly kept, overflowing cesspools, accumulations of manure and house refuse, &c.

Inspection of Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, &c.—The Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Dairies, Milkshops, Factories and Workshops have been inspected and are generally well kept. Where improvements have been required and lime-washing necessary, it has been carried out.

Several of the Cowsheds in the district are of the latest type and as nearly perfect as it is possible to have them. The large majority are up to a good standard, but there are a few which require replacing with more modern and better structures.

The Bakehouses are generally good and well kept.

The Slaughter Houses are up to the standard, and the one which gave us the most trouble, on account of its position in a somewhat congested area, unsuitable for such a building, has been closed and the Licence cancelled.

Milkshops are clean and well kept.

There are no large Factories in the Council's district with the exception of the Potteries.

The Workshops are good and have caused no complaint.

Infectious Diseases.—On notification of any case of infectious disease the patient, if considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health, on account of lack of proper provision for isolation or other reason, is at once removed to the Alderney Hospital in an ambulance and the house disinfected under my supervision.

An inspection is made of the house and premises from which the patient was taken, in order to ascertain its state of repair, cleanliness, etc., and if found unsatisfactory, the result of the

inspection is communicated to the Owner of the premises and orders given him to carry out the work necessary to put it into a proper state of repair.

Disinfectants are supplied free of charge, when considered necessary.

The disinfection is carried out by the fumigation of Formalin Gas and a spray of liquid Formalin.

Schools are also disinfected in the same manner after cases of infectious disease, if considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health.

Twenty-one premises and one school were disinfected during the year.

Water Supply.—The water supply is generally good, being obtained chiefly from the mains of the Poole Corporation and the Bournemouth Gas & Water Co.

The wells remaining in the district are chiefly in the Parishes of the two Lytchetts.

Scavenging and Cleansing of Cesspools.—The Council undertake the emptying of cesspools and earth closets and the collection of house refuse in the Parish of Canford Magna only.

The work has increased tremendously since it was commenced and the apparatus of the Council is meeting more and more difficulty each year to cope with it. The increase in the work of emptying the cesspools comes about in two ways. Firstly, new houses are being continually erected with drains from water closets, scullery sinks, baths, lavatory basins discharging into the new cesspools. Secondly, the existing cesspools, most of which are built dry in order that the superflous sewage may soak away, are becoming gradually sealed up and require more frequent emptying.

It is well that the Council's Sewerage Scheme is under way for it is certain that the work could not have been efficiently carried out during next winter with the present apparatus.

It is extremely probable that Broadstone will go ahead and grow rapidly now that an up-to-date system of sewers is being constructed. The old system of cesspools and their consequent emptying, is not suitable for a residential area and retarded the growth to a large extent.

The Parish of Kinson is assuming such an urban area that it will be necessary for the Council to consider the advisability of their undertaking this work of scavenging and emptying cesspools at an early date. During the last twelve months nearly forty houses were erected and completed in this Parish alone and this

s occurring annually. The majority of them have the water carriage system of disposal and have baths in addition. These cesspools are gradually sealing up and will require more and more constant emptying or they will become a nuisance and a menance to the health of the residents.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—Inspections are being made from time to time under the above Act, and orders given to owners to carry out necessary repairs are generally complied with.

The housing conditions of the district are generally good, the majority of the houses in the Parishes of Canford Magna and Kinson being modern villas erected under the bye-laws.

The cottages in the Parishes of Lytchett Minster and Matravers are not so modern; many being constructed of mud and thatch.

There are still a few cottages being occupied which are not fit for human habitation, owing to the present shortage, but they will be closed as accomodation becomes more easy to obtain.

Housing Schemes.—Housing schemes were carried out during the year in the Parishes of Lytchett Minster and Canford Magna. Those of Lytchett Matravers and Kinson were abandoned.

The Scheme at Broadstone, in the Parish of Canford Magna, consisted of ten houses, built of red brick and stucco cavity walls with tiled roofs.

They have the following accommodation: On the ground floor, Parlour with bay window, Living Room fitted with "Interoven Grate" and linen cupboard, Hall, Kitchen-scullery with Gas Cooker and Copper, Larder and Fuel House; on the first floor, three Bedrooms, each with large hanging cupboard, Bathroom and w.c.

Each house has a hot water apparatus supplying the bath and sink and is lighted with gas.

Each garden is half-an-acre in extent.

The Scheme at Lytchett Minster consists of six houses built in pairs, with cavity walls covered with stucco and tile roofs.

They have the following accommodation: On the ground floor Parlour, Living Room with linen cupboard, Scullery, Wash-house and Bathroom with Copper, Larder, Fuel House and w.c. On the first floor, three bedrooms with large hanging cupboards.

Each house has a hot water apparatus supplying the bath and sink and stands on half-acre of ground.

Subsidy Houses.—In all, Certificates "A" have been issued in respect of 143 houses. Of these 88 have been completed in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the bye-laws and the special regulations of the Ministry of Health.

The applicants have received cheques in payment of these Grants amounting to **£20,011 2s. 3d.**

There are a few more houses entitled to the Grant unfinished which will qualify provided they are completed fit for occupation by the 23rd June, 1923.

The great majority of the above houses were erected in the Parish of Kinson, near the Hampshire boundary.

During the twelve month 73 plans were approved by the Council.

Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920.—Several applications for Certificates have been made under the above Act. In each case I have inspected the premises and made a report to the Council.

Certificates have been issued in four cases.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. SEYMOUR.

COUNTY OF DORSET.

The Rural Sanitary District of Poole.

Return relating to Sanitary Work within the above District during the year ending 31st December, 1921.

Number of Complaints received during the year ...	9
Number of Inspections of Houses, &c.	956
Results of Inspections—	
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses and Premises	11
Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, White-washed, &c.	19
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Also one School.	21
House Drains—New Provided, Tested and Approved ...	41
Repaired, Cleaned, Trapped, &c. ...	21
Privies and W.C.'s.—New Provided	1
Repaired and Improved	5
Water Supplies provided	3
Miscellaneous—	
Removal of Accumulations of Manure Animal and other Refuse, &c.	27